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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 3 June 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letter dated 22 May 2016 addressed to the office of the Secretary-General (No. 265), I should like to convey to you the following information:

In response to the invitation it received to participate in the inaugural World Humanitarian Summit, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23 and 24 May 2016, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic officially informed the United Nations and the organizers of its intention to participate in the Summit. It commissioned its Consul General and a number of its accredited diplomats at its Consulate General in Istanbul to participate in and represent Syria at the meeting, and submitted its credentials to the organizers in accordance with the established procedures for such conferences.

On 22 May 2016, just one day before the start of the Summit, we were surprised by the Turkish regime's refusal to allow the representatives of the Syrian Government to attend or participate in the Summit. The false and spurious pretexts invoked by the representatives of the Turkish regime were completely at variance with the fact that the conference was organized and convened under the auspices of the United Nations, and that the host country therefore had no right to take any action that would prevent a State Member of the United Nations from participating in the Summit.

On 22 May 2016, in a letter addressed to your office, the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic requested that you take appropriate and urgent action to address the issue and call on the Turkish regime to reverse its position, which was in breach of the established rules and procedures of the United Nations, and allow the members of the Syrian delegation to participate in and represent their country at the Summit, in order to express their Government's position and the relevant measures it has adopted.

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Unfortunately, to date, we have not received any response to that letter and have not seen any type of steps being taken to address the issue that we brought to your attention.

In light of the above, we wish to inform you that we strongly oppose and reject the manner in which the Secretariat has handled this issue, which will set an unwelcome precedent by silencing the voices of States Members of this Organization and excluding them from international conferences.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its position that it will not recognize or be bound by the commitments and outcomes of the Summit, given that the Syrian Arab Republic, a founding and full Member of the United Nations, was deprived from participating in the Summit.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73 (a).